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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/726,847	11/29/2000	James B. Henrie	PALM-3533.US.P	1952

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WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP
Two North Market Street, Third Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

EXAMINER
CASIANO, ANGEL L

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2182	5

DATE MAILED: 03/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/726,847	HENRIE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Angel L. Casiano	2182	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *29 November 2000* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-23* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-23* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *29 November 2000* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to application filed on 29 November 2000.

2. Claims 1-23 are pending in the application.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hanson et al. [US 6,442,734 B1].

Regarding claim 1, Hanson et al. teaches a method for selecting an application used with a communication interface (see col. 1, lines 47-49) in a computer system. The cited method includes entering a mode for executing the application (see col.1, lines 50-56). It is also disclosed the step of identifying the type of connection according to a resistance value (see col. 5, lines 13-15, 23-26, 36-37; col. 6, lines 21-23; col. 7, lines 5-8; col. 8, lines 31-32). Hanson et al. discloses the selection of an application form used with the identified type of connection (see

col. 1, lines 58-61; col. 2, lines 53-56; col. 3, lines 21-23). However, it is not explicitly disclosed in the mentioned prior art the step of reading a resistance value of a pin on a communication interface, where a type of connection is associated with a particular resistance value. Nonetheless, Hanson et al. exposes (see col. 8, lines 43-50) reading a pin in a communication device. The logical reading resulting from the cited pin is a measure of a resistor in the system (see col. 8, lines 53-55; Figure 5). Therefore, it is obvious that the signal reading resulting from the action of the resistor is an indicator of and depending on its resistance. Thus, resistance must be measured in the reference in order to cause a logical level, which is read on the cited pin. The measure of this resistance causes association between the obtained value and the type of connection (see col. 8, lines 63-67; col. 9, lines 1-3). Accordingly, although the reference does not disclose the computer system coupled to the communication interface as being portable, it does expose the method as applicable to a portable computer (see col. 3, lines 36-42).

As for claim 2, Hanson et al. discloses the step of entering a mode as responsive to input from a user, independent of the type of connection (see col. 4, lines 22-27). As it is exposed, the user can enter a mode to execute a particular application regardless of the type of connection.

As for claim 3, Hanson et al. does not expressly disclose the computer interface as including a cradle element for inserting a portable computer system. Nonetheless, the reference does disclose the applicability of the system and method to a portable computer system (see col. 3, lines 38-39). As it is well known in the art, a cradle element is needed in order to use a portable computer system. Therefore, it is obvious that a cradle element is needed in order to apply the system and method disclosed in the cited prior art to a portable computer.

As for claim 4, the cited prior art discloses the step of identifying the type of connection (see col. 5, lines 13-15, 23-26, 36-37; col. 8, lines 31-32). However, it is not explicitly disclosed in the reference the step of identifying the type of connection according to a voltage value in the pin. Nonetheless, Hanson et al. exposes (see col. 8, lines 49-50) reading a signal level in a pin. This signal constitutes a logical level (see col. 8, line 51). As it is well known in the art, a logic level in a system as the one disclosed in the prior art requires the reading and determination of a voltage value. It is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a logic level is a voltage value that is translated into a logic value.

As for claim 5, it is not exposed in the prior art the step of selecting an application for debugging applications on the portable computer system. Nonetheless, the reference includes the selection of different applications to be used on the portable computer system (see col. 1, lines 53-56; col. 2, lines 56-59). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the selection of debugging applications on the portable system, since these are well known in the art.

As for claim 6, the reference discloses the selection of the application for sharing information (see col. 1, lines 53-56; col. 2, lines 56-59; col. 4, lines 38-47). Although communication between a portable computer and a second computer is not explicitly disclosed, the reference does mention the applicability of the referenced method to portable systems (see col. 3, lines 36-42).

As for claim 7, the prior art teaches the identification of USB-type connection (see col. 8, lines 63-67; Figures 3A, 3B) and the use of applications with a USB communication interface (see col. 4, lines 19-20).

As for claim 8, the cited prior art does not teach the identification of an RS232 connection or the use of the application with an RS232 communication device. However, it does disclose that RS232 is a commonly used serial interface (see col. 1, lines 27-29). Therefore, it would have been obvious to expand the system and method disclosed by Hanson et al. in order to support RS232-type connections since it is a well known communication interface.

Regarding claim 9, the prior art teaches a computer system having a bus (see col. 3, line 52), a communication interface port coupled to the bus (see col. 2, lines 42-43; col. 8, lines 43-47), and a processor coupled to the bus (see col. 3, line 53; col. 4, lines 29-30). The processor in the Hanson et al. cited disclosure performs a method for selecting an application used with a type of communication interface (see Figure 1; col. 3, line 53; col. 5, lines 56-59, 64-65; col. 8, lines 43-47). The cited method also includes entering a mode for the execution of an application (see col.1, lines 50-56). It is also disclosed by Hanson et al. the step of identifying the type of connection according to a resistance value (see col. 5, lines 13-15, 23-26, 36-37; col. 6, lines 21-23; col. 7, lines 5-8; col. 8, lines 31-32). Hanson et al. discloses the selection of an application form used with the identified type of connection (see col. 1, lines 58-61; col. 2, lines 53-56; col. 3, lines 21-23). However, it is not explicitly disclosed in the reference the step of reading a resistance value of a pin on a communication interface, where the type of connection is associated with a particular resistance value. Nonetheless, Hanson et al. teaches (see col. 8, lines 43-50) reading a pin in a communication device. The logical reading resulting from the prior art pin is a measure of a resistor in the system (see col. 8, lines 53-55; Figure 5). Therefore, it is obvious that the signal reading resulting from the action of the resistor depends on the particular resistance value. It is obvious that resistance must be measured in the prior art in order to cause

a logical level, which is read on the referenced pin. The measure of resistance causes an association between the obtained value and the type of connection (see col. 8, lines 63-67; col. 9, lines 1-3). Accordingly, although the reference does not disclose the computer system coupled to the communication interface as being portable, it does expose the method as applicable to a portable computer (see col. 3, lines 36-42). Therefore, the applicability of the method disclosed in the prior art to a portable computer system is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

As for claim 10, Hanson et al. discloses the method as including the step of entering a mode responsive to an input from a user (see col. 4, lines 22-27). In the prior art, the user can enter a mode to execute a particular application independent of the type of connection.

As for claim 11, the reference does not expressly disclose the computer interface as having a cradle element for the insertion of a portable computer system. Nonetheless, the reference does disclose the applicability of the system and method to a portable computer system (see col. 3, lines 38-39). As it is well known in the art, a cradle element is needed in order to use a portable computer system for communication. Therefore, it is obvious that a cradle element is needed in order to apply the system and method disclosed in the cited prior art to a portable computer.

As for claim 12, the mentioned prior art teaches the step of identifying the type of connection (see col. 5, lines 13-15, 23-26, 36-37; col. 8, lines 31-32). However, it does not explicitly expose the step of identifying the type of connection according to a voltage value in the pin. Nonetheless, Hanson et al. teaches (see col. 8, lines 49-50) reading a signal level in a pin. This signal constitutes a logical level (see col. 8, line 51). As it is well known in the art, a logic level in a system as the one disclosed in the prior art requires the reading and determination of a

voltage value. It is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a logic level is a voltage value that is translated into logic.

As for claim 13, it is not disclosed in the prior art the step of selecting an application for debugging applications on the portable computer system. Nonetheless, the reference includes the selection of different applications to be used on the portable computer system (see col. 1, lines 53-56; col. 2, lines 56-59). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the selection of debugging applications on the portable system, since these are well known in the art.

As for claim 14, the reference discloses the selection of the application for sharing information (see col. 1, lines 53-56; col. 2, lines 56-59; col. 4, lines 38-47). Although communication between a portable computer and a second computer is not explicitly disclosed, the reference does mention the applicability of the referenced method to portable systems (see col. 3, lines 36-42).

As for claim15, the prior art teaches the identification of USB-type connection (see col. 8, lines 63-67; Figures 3A, 3B) as well as the use of applications with a USB communication interface (see col. 4, lines 19-20).

As for claim 16, the cited prior art does not disclose the identification of an RS232 connection or the use of an application with an RS232 communication device. However, it does expose that RS232 is a commonly used serial interface (see col. 1, lines 27-29). Therefore, it would have been obvious to expand the system and method disclosed by Hanson et al. in order to support RS232-type connections since it is a well-known communication interface.

Regarding claim 17, the prior art includes a method for selecting an application used with a type of communication interface (see col. 1, lines 58-61; col. 2, lines 53-56; col. 3, lines 21-23). The method in the Hanson et al. cited disclosure performs the step of selecting an application used with a type of communication interface (see Figure 1; col. 3, line 53; col. 5, lines 56-59, 64-65; col. 8, lines 43-47). It is also disclosed by Hanson et al. the step of identifying the type of connection according to a resistance value (see col. 5, lines 13-15, 23-26, 36-37; col. 6, lines 21-23; col. 7, lines 5-8; col. 8, lines 31-32). Hanson et al. teaches the selection of an application form used with the identified type of connection (see col. 1, lines 58-61; col. 2, lines 53-56; col. 3, lines 21-23). However, it is not explicitly disclosed in the reference the step of reading the resistance value of a pin on a communication interface, where the type of connection is associated with a particular resistance value. Nonetheless, Hanson et al. teaches (see col. 8, lines 43-50) reading a pin in a communication interface device. The logical reading resulting from the prior art pin is a measure of the resistance in the system (see col. 8, lines 53-55; Figure 5). It is obvious that the signal reading resulting from the action of the resistor depends on the particular resistance value. Therefore, it is obvious that resistance must be measured in the prior art in order to cause a logical level, which is read on the referenced pin. The measure of resistance causes an association between the obtained value and connection type (see col. 8, lines 63-67; col. 9, lines 1-3). Furthermore, although the reference does not disclose the computer system coupled to the communication interface as being portable, it does expose the method as applicable to a portable computer (see col. 3, lines 36-42). The applicability of the method disclosed in the prior art to a portable computer system is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

As for claim 18, the prior art discloses the method as including the step of entering a mode responsive to an input from a user (see col. 4, lines 22-27). Hanson et al. teaches a method where the user can enter a mode to execute a particular application independent of the type of connection.

As for claim 19, the mentioned prior art teaches the step of identifying the type of connection (see col. 5, lines 13-15, 23-26, 36-37; col. 8, lines 31-32). However, it does not explicitly expose the step of identifying the type of connection according to a voltage value in the pin. Nonetheless, Hanson et al. teaches (see col. 8, lines 49-50) reading a signal level in a pin. This signal constitutes a logical level (see col. 8, line 51). As it is well known in the art, a logic level in a system as the one disclosed in the prior art requires the reading and determination of a voltage value. It is obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that a logic level is a voltage value that is translated into logic.

As for claim 20, it is not included in the prior art the step of selecting an application for debugging applications on the portable computer system. Nonetheless, the reference teaches the selection of different applications to be used on the portable computer system (see col. 1, lines 53-56; col. 2, lines 56-59). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the selection of debugging applications on the portable system, since these are well known in the art.

As for claim 21, the reference discloses the selection of the application for sharing information (see col. 1, lines 53-56; col. 2, lines 56-59; col. 4, lines 38-47). Although communication between a portable computer and a second computer is not explicitly disclosed, the reference

does mention the applicability of the referenced method to portable systems (see col. 3, lines 36-42).

As for claim 22, the prior art discloses the identification of USB-type connection (see col. 8, lines 63-67; Figures 3A, 3B) as well as the use of applications with a USB communication interface (see col. 4, lines 19-20).

As for claim 23, the cited prior art does not disclose the identification of an RS232 connection or the use of an application with an RS232 communication device. However, it does teach that RS232 is a commonly used serial interface (see col. 1, lines 27-29). Therefore, it would have been obvious to expand the system and method disclosed by Hanson et al. in order to support RS232-type connections since it is a well-known communication interface.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Hanson et al. [US 6,460,094 B1] teaches a peripheral device configured to detect connection type and configure itself.
- Felps et al. [US 5,939,875] teaches an interface device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angel L. Casiano whose telephone number is 703-305-8301. The examiner can normally be reached on 830-500pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 703-308-3301. The fax phone numbers for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7239 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

alc
March 18, 2003

JEFFREY GAFFIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100